

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA  
WHEELING DIVISION**

ROBERT E. BURTON,

Plaintiff,

v.

MAXIMUS EDUCATION, LLC d/b/a  
ADVANTAGE, TRANS UNION, LLC,  
EXPERIAN INFORMATION SOLUTIONS,  
INC. and EQUIFAX INFORMATION  
SERVICES, LLC

Defendants.

Case No. 5:25-cv-00021-JPB

**ANSWER AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

COMES NOW Defendant Experian Information Solutions, Inc. (“Experian”), by and through its undersigned counsel, and answers Plaintiff Robert F. Burton’s (“Plaintiff”) Complaint (the “Complaint”) as follows:

**RESPONSE TO “PRELIMINARY STATEMENT”**

1. In response to paragraph 1 of the Complaint, Experian admits that Plaintiff has brought an action for damages. Experian denies that it has violated the Fair Credit Reporting Act (“FCRA”).

2. In response to paragraph 2 of the Complaint, Experian states that this is a legal conclusion which is not subject to denial or admission. To the extent a response is required, Experian is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained therein, and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein.

**RESPONSE TO “PARTIES”**

3. In response to paragraph 3 of the Complaint, Experian admits that Plaintiff has alleged that he is a consumer pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(c). Experian states that this is a legal conclusion which is not subject to denial or admission.

4. In response to paragraph 4 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

5. In response to paragraph 5 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

6. In response to paragraph 6 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

7. In response to paragraph 7 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the

allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

8. In response to paragraph 8 of the Complaint, Experian admits that it is an Ohio corporation, with its corporate headquarters in Costa Mesa, California. Experian further admits that it is qualified to do business and conducts business in the State of West Virginia. Except as specifically admitted, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of paragraph 8 of the Complaint.

9. In response to paragraph 9 of the Complaint, Experian admits that it is a consumer reporting agency as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(f) and, as such, issues consumer reports as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(d). Except as specifically admitted, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of paragraph 9 of the Complaint.

10. In response to paragraph 10 of the Complaint, Experian admits the allegations contained therein.

11. In response to paragraph 11 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

12. In response to paragraph 12 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the

allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

13. In response to paragraph 13 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

14. In response to paragraph 14 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

#### **RESPONSE TO “FACTS”**

15. In response to paragraph 15 of the Complaint, Experian is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained therein and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein.

16. In response to paragraph 16 of the Complaint, Experian is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained therein and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein.

17. In response to paragraph 17 of the Complaint, Experian is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained therein and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein.

18. In response to paragraph 18 of the Complaint, Experian is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained therein and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein.

19. In response to paragraph 19 of the Complaint, Experian is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained therein and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein.

20. In response to paragraph 20 of the Complaint, Experian is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained therein and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein.

21. In response to paragraph 21 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

22. In response to paragraph 22 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on

that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

23. In response to paragraph 23 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

24. In response to paragraph 24 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

25. In response to paragraph 25 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

26. In response to paragraph 26 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have

knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

27. In response to paragraph 27 of the Complaint, Experian is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained therein and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein.

28. In response to paragraph 28 of the Complaint, Experian is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained therein and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein.

29. In response to paragraph 29 of the Complaint, Experian is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained therein and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein.

30. In response to paragraph 30 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

31. In response to paragraph 31 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on

that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

32. In response to paragraph 32 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

33. In response to paragraph 33 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

34. In response to paragraph 34 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

35. In response to paragraph 35 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have

knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

36. In response to paragraph 36 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

37. In response to paragraph 37 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

38. In response to paragraph 38 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

39. In response to paragraph 39 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the

allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

40. In response to paragraph 40 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

41. In response to paragraph 41 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

42. In response to paragraph 42 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

43. In response to paragraph 43 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph. Experian specifically denies that they have damaged the Plaintiff.

44. In response to paragraph 44 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph. Experian specifically denies that they have damaged the Plaintiff.

45. In response to paragraph 45 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph. Experian specifically denies that they have damaged the Plaintiff.

**RESPONSE TO COUNT I**  
**Violations of the Fair Credit Reporting Act**  
**15 U.S.C. §§ 1681s-2(b) (Against Defendant Aadvantage)**

46. Paragraph 46 is a paragraph of incorporation to which no responsive pleading is required. Experian hereby incorporates its responses to paragraphs 1 through 45 of the Complaint.

47. In response to paragraph 47 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

48. In response to paragraph 48 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

49. In response to paragraph 49 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

50. In response to paragraph 50 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on

that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

**RESPONSE TO COUNT II**  
**CRA's Violations of the Fair Credit Reporting Act**  
**15 U.S.C. §§ 1681e(b)**

51. Paragraph 51 is a paragraph of incorporation to which no responsive pleading is required. Experian hereby incorporates its responses to paragraphs 1 through 50 of the Complaint.

52. In response to paragraph 52 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

53. In response to paragraph 53 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph. Experian specifically denies that they have damaged the Plaintiff.

54. In response to paragraph 54 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on

that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

55. In response to paragraph 55 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

**RESPONSE TO COUNT III**  
**CRA's Violations of the Fair Credit Reporting Act**  
**15 U.S.C. §§ 1681i**

56. Paragraph 56 is a paragraph of incorporation to which no responsive pleading is required. Experian hereby incorporates its responses to paragraphs 1 through 55 of the Complaint.

57. In response to paragraph 57 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

58. In response to paragraph 58 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on

that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph. Experian denies that it has damaged the Plaintiff.

59. In response to paragraph 59 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

60. In response to paragraph 60 of the Complaint, Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein that relates to Experian. As to the allegations in the paragraph that relate to the other defendants, Experian does not have knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and, on that basis, denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining allegation of the paragraph.

In response to the unnumbered paragraph on page 8 of the Complaint after paragraph 60, beginning “WHEREFORE,” Experian denies, generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein. Experian denies that Plaintiff is entitled to any of the relief requested, or any relief whatsoever against Experian. Experian denies that Plaintiff is entitled to judgment against Experian in this action.

#### **RESPONSE TO TRIAL BY JURY DEMAND**

Experian admits that Plaintiff has demanded trial by jury on all issues triable.

#### **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

In further response to Plaintiff’s Complaint, Experian hereby asserts the following affirmative defenses, without conceding that it bears the burden of persuasion as to any of them.

**FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**  
**(FAILURE TO STATE A CLAIM)**

The Complaint herein, and each cause of action thereof, fails to set forth facts sufficient to state a claim upon which relief may be granted against Experian and further fails to state facts sufficient to entitle Plaintiff to the relief sought, or to any other relief whatsoever from Experian.

**SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**  
**(TRUTH/ACCURACY OF INFORMATION)**

All claims against Experian are barred because all of the information Experian communicated to any third person regarding Plaintiff was true.

**THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**  
**(REASONABLE PROCEDURES)**

At all times relevant to the Complaint, Experian followed reasonable procedures to assure the maximum possible accuracy of Plaintiff's credit reports.

**FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**  
**(INDEMNIFICATION)**

Experian is informed and believes and thereon alleges that any purported damages allegedly suffered by Plaintiff are the results of acts or omissions of third persons over whom Experian had neither control nor responsibility.

**FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**  
**(ARBITRATION)**

Experian alleges on information and belief that Plaintiff's claims may be the subject of an arbitration agreement between Plaintiff and Experian.

**SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(FAILURE TO MITIGATE DAMAGES)**

Plaintiff has failed to mitigate his damages.

**SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(LACHES)**

The Complaint and each claim for relief therein are barred by laches.

**EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(CONTRIBUTORY/COMPARATIVE FAULT)**

Experian is informed and believes and thereon alleges that any alleged damages sustained by Plaintiff were, at least in part, caused by the actions of Plaintiff herself and/or third parties and resulted from Plaintiff's or third parties' own negligence which equaled or exceeded any alleged negligence or wrongdoing by Experian.

**NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(ESTOPPEL)**

Any damages which Plaintiff may have suffered, which Experian continues to deny, were the direct and proximate result of the conduct of Plaintiff. Therefore, Plaintiff is estopped and barred from recovery of any damages.

**TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(INDEPENDENT INTERVENING CAUSE)**

Experian is informed and believes and thereon alleges that if Plaintiff sustained any of the injuries alleged in the Complaint, there was an intervening, superseding cause and/or causes leading to such alleged injuries and, as such, any action on the part of Experian was not a proximate cause of the alleged injuries.

**ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(COMPLIANCE/GOOD FAITH)**

Plaintiff's claims fail to the extent that, at all relevant times with respect to Plaintiff, Experian acted in good faith and complied fully with the FCRA and relevant state laws.

**TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(IMPROPER REQUEST FOR PUNITIVE DAMAGES)**

Plaintiff's Complaint does not allege facts sufficient to rise to the level of conduct required to recover punitive damages, and thus all requests for punitive damages are improper.

**THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(RIGHT TO ASSERT ADDITIONAL DEFENSES)**

Experian reserves the right to assert additional affirmative defenses at such time and to such extent as warranted by discovery and the factual developments in this case.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Defendant Experian Information Solutions, Inc. prays as follows:

- a. That Plaintiff take nothing by virtue of the Complaint herein and that this action be dismissed in its entirety;
- b. That Experian be dismissed as a party to this action;
- c. For costs of suit and attorneys' fees herein incurred; and
- d. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: February 10, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Michael C. Cardi*

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Leigh Anne Wilson (WVSB # 13927)  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA  
WHEELING DIVISION**

ROBERT F. BURTON,

Plaintiff,

v.

MAXIMUS EDUCATION, LLC d/b/a  
ADVANTAGE, TRANS UNION, LLC,  
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INC. and EQUIFAX INFORMATION  
SERVICES, LLC

Defendants.

Case No. 5:25-cv-00021-JPB

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned does hereby certify that the foregoing “*Answer and Affirmative Defenses*” was electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, on this 10th day of February 2025, which will send notice of the filing of this document to the following:

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